COMMANDERS DIGEST

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RECEIVED DOCUMENTS

U.S. Officials Deny Need For European Troop Cutback

U.S. officials contend that any substantial reduction of troop strength in Europe would be detrimental to both the U.S. national interest and the NATO alliance.

They emphasize there still exists a substantial Warsaw Pact threat to counter. They also stress there is no need for a major troop unit withdrawal from Europe for deployment in Southeast Asia, noting that the buildup there—now at 308,000 ground strength—is being accomplished as fast as Gen. Westmoreland can absorb additional troops.

Elaborating on Europe, U.S. officials point out that 20 Soviet divisions are still there. They note, too, there are no reasons not to expect Soviet probes, like those in the Fall of 1962 and 1963, should the Warsaw Pact nations believe they see Western weakness.

Extensions of Temporary Lodging Allowance Approved

Major overseas commanders have been given authority to extend temporary lodging allowances for incoming personnel beyond the 60-day maximum.

Extensions in increments of 15 days or less may be granted by the commander under the following circumstances:

- non-arrival of household goods;
- delay in availability of or assignment to Government quarters due to exigencies of the service;
- acts of God, fire, flood, earthquake, riot, civil unrest, or other disturbances which make available or anticipated housing temporarily or permanently uninhabitable or unavailable;
- withdrawal of housing from the market by landlord, or the housing officer to be suitable for the member's need, in acceptable location, and comparable to and within the price range of housing currently being utilized by other members in the area.

Commanders gained this authority from the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee in its Joint Determination 90-66, effective Sept. 13, but they must report to the committee extensions they make.

NAVY CROSS—SSgt. John J. Anderson (left), receives the Navy Cross from Lt. Gen. James M. Masters, Sr., Commandant, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va. Sgt. Anderson received the award for action in Vietnam.

SecDef to Attend NATO Defense Ministers' Meeting

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara is scheduled to attend a meeting of NATO's Special Committee of Defense Ministers in Rome, Sept. 23.

It is the fourth meeting of the Working Group for Nuclear Planning, which is studying ways of improving and extending Allied participation in proposals for nuclear forces in the Defense of NATO.

Others expected to attend besides Secretary McNamara, who will serve as chairman, are: Kai Uwe von Hassel, Germany; Robert Tremelloni, Italy; Ahmet Topaloglu, Turkey; Denis Healey, United Kingdom; and Manlio Brosio, the Secretary General of NATO.

Posthumous Medal of Honor Goes to First Seabee Recipient

The Medal of Honor awarded posthumously to Marvin Glen Shields marked the first time that a Seabee ever received the award.

Shields ,a Navy Seabee Construction Mechanic Third Class, received the Medal "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life" while assigned in Vietnam.

President Johnson presented the award to Shields' widow, Joan Elaine, and two-year-old daughter, Barbara Diane.

Washington Memos

U.S. AND COLOMBIAN Naval forces of Exercise Unitas VII have ended the Caribbean phase of their anti-submarine exercises. The Pacific Ocean phase began Sept. 15 following a join-up with Equadorian ships at U.S. Naval Station, Rodman, C.Z. During exercise, USN task force circumnavigates continent of South America, operating with sea and air forces from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela.

DOD CASUALTY REPORT shows 5,064 U. S. service personnel have lost their lives in Vietnam from actions by hostile forces during period Jan. 1, 1961 through Sept. 10, 1966. Another 1,081 lives were lost from non-hostile action causes.

REVISED ARMY AVIATION training program for Fixed Wing Aviators is being put into operation at U.S. Army Aviation School at Ft. Rucker, Ala., and at Ft. Stewart, Ga. Program reduces training time by 10 percent and introduces civilian-type aircraft into the training program during primary phase.

ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS by mid-October is aim of Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont) who has urged Senate Committee leaders to expedite disposal of pending legislation for possible end of the current session by Oct. 15.

AIR FORCE BASES in Southeast Asia will soon be receiving new 5,000 gallon R-5 refueling trucks. Among advantages of the new "refuelers" are dispensing system which handles 600 gallons a minute, and air transport without disassembly. Since climatic conditions are important, officials noted that the R-5 checks out 65 degrees below zero to 125 degrees above.

ELVIS J. STAHR, president of Association of the United States Army and former Army secretary, will open AUSA's 1966 annual meeting to be held Oct. 10-12 in Washington, D. C. Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor is scheduled to make keynote address. First day topics include logistic support in Vietnam and fire support of air mobile operations in Vietnam.

NAVY WILL no longer use so-called "Hump Law" (Public Law 86-155) to create vacancies through non-continuation in grades of captain and commander. This law passed in 1959 to prevent promotion stagnation, is no longer necessary, Navy said, because of "the increasing size of the Navy and the accompanying increase in requirements generated by the Southeast Asia conflict."

"A LOOK AHEAD" will be principal theme of the USAF World-Wide Materiel Conference scheduled to be held at the Air Force Academy Oct. 12-14. Top materiel officers from the major air commands will attend conference and participate in panel discussions on Air Force materiel subjects.

GEN. PAUL D. ADAMS, Commander-in-Chief U.S. Strike Command (STRICOM) is on Army orders to retire from active duty at end of October and to be placed on USA retired list effective Nov. 1.

SEABEE ANNIVERSARY MEDAL proposed by Rep. Charles M. Teague (R-Calif.) to commemorate 25th anniversary of U.S. Naval Construction Battalions (Seabees) and U.S. Navy Civil Engineer's 100th anniversary. Proposal to strike commemorative medal was referred to House Committee on Banking and Currency.

FAA PROCUREMENT MANUAL has been revised to codify agency-wide regulations, orders and other documents. Popularly known as FAPM—for Federal Aviation Procurement Manual—it comes in a looseleaf format and is scheduled to be published in mid-November.

RECRUITMENT IS UNDERWAY to enroll veterans, college students, craftsmen and technicians in a special cooperative training program aimed at preparing them for placement as vocational-technical teachers. Program, to begin this fall at Oak Ridge, Tenn., will provide a full college academic year of teacher-training in many mechanical crafts and give credit toward a B.S. degree in industrial education.

SUPPORTED BY U.S. Office of Education, new training program joins together the staff and facilities of the University of Tennessee, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Union Carbide Corp. and Oak Ridge Associated Universities to use the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant for training. Organized labor is cooperating in the project and assistance is to be given by the Tennessee State Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor.

ASTRONAUTS' BLOOD PRESSURE monitoring devices can have direct carryover to civilian medicine. NASA report emphasizes that sensor and technique can be adapted to prolong lives of persons with certain types of heart disease. Report "NASA Contribution to Cardiovascular Monitoring" (SP-5041) may be purchased for 25¢ from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

ANOTHER OF NAVY'S few remaining World War I veterans has retired. Master Chief Quartermaster Arthur L. McElroy concluded service that spanned 49 years, recalling that he reported to the coal-burning troopship Agamemnon after finishing boot camp.

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Background for Commanders

THE U.S. AND THE U.S.S.R.*

Almost 300 million people would perish in a full-scale nuclear exchange between the East and the West.

This is why we have always been required to show restraint as well as remember to demonstrate resolve; to be firm but not to walk heavy-footed along the brink of war.

This is why we also recognize that at the heart of our concern in the year ahead must be our relationship with the Soviet Union. Both of us possess unimaginable power; our responsibility to the world is heavier than that ever borne by any two nations at any other time in history. Our common interests demand that both of us exercise it wisely in the years ahead.

Since 1945, we have opposed Communist efforts to bring about a Communist-dominated world. We did so because our convictions and our interests demanded it; and we shall continue to do so.

But we have never sought war or the destruction of the Soviet Union: indeed, we have sought instead to increase our knowledge and our understanding of the Russian people.

Areas of Agreement

Our compelling task is this: to search for every possible area of agreement that might conceivably enlarge, no matter how slightly or how slowly, the prospect for cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Common reasons for agreement have not eluded us in the past.

- In 1963, we signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty that has now been joined by almost 100 other countries.
- In 1959, the Antarctic Treaty—which restricted activity in this part of the world to peaceful purposes—was signed by the United States and the Soviet Union. It has now been joined by all countries interested in Antarctica.
- In 1963, the United Nations unanimously passed a resolution prohibiting the placing in orbit of weapons of mass destruction.
- When I first became President I informed Premier Khrushchev that we in the United States intended to reduce the level of our production of fissionable materials and we hoped that he and the Soviets would do likewise. Premier Khrushchev agreed.

Negotiations in Progress

We have been negotiating with the Soviet Union, and other nations, a treaty that would limit the future activity on celestial bodies to peaceful purposes. This treaty would, for all time, ban weapons of mass destruction, not only on celestial bodies, but also in orbit around the earth. Much of the substance of this treaty has been resolved.

We are also seeking agreement on a treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. I believe that we can find acceptable compromise language on which reasonable men can agree.

Vietnam and World Peace

The United States is today fighting to keep the North Vietnamese from taking over South Vietnam by force. **That conflict does not have to stop us from finding new ways of dealing with one another.**

We are trying to protect the independence of South Vietnam, to provide her people with a chance to decide for themselves where they are going and what they will become. These objectives can be attained within the borders of Vietnam. They do not threaten the vital interests of the Soviet Union or the territory of any of her friends. We seek in Southeast Asia an order and security that we think would contribute to the peace of the entire world—and in that, we think, the Soviet Union has a very large stake.

It is the responsibility, then, of both of us to keep particular difficulties from becoming vehicles for much larger dangers.

Peace does not ever come suddenly or swiftly; only war carries that privilege. Peace will not dramatically appear from a single agreement or a single utterance or a single meeting. It will be advanced by one small, perhaps imperceptible, gain after another, in which neither the pride nor the prestige of any large power is deemed more important than the fate of the world.

It will come by the gradual growth of common interests, by the increased awareness of shifting dangers and alignments, and by the development of confidence.

While differing principles and differing values may always divide us, they should not, and they must not, deter us from rational acts of common endeavor. Our purpose must be a consuming, determined desire to enlarge the peace for all peoples.

This does not mean that we have to become bedfellows. It does not mean that we have to cease competition. But it does mean that we must both want—and work for and long for—that day when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation."

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* *Excerpts from remarks of President Johnson at the National Reactor Testing Center, Idaho Falls, Idaho.*

Army Places Cloth Order For Lightweight Uniform

Some 2.5 million yards of cloth used for making the lighter-weight Army green dress uniform is being procured by Defense Supply Agency through two contracts totaling more than $6 million.

A $3,760,000 negotiated, fixed-price contract for 1.6 million yards of polyester fiber and wool tropical cloth is being received by J. P. Stevens and Company, Incorporated, New York, N. Y.

DSA is also issuing a $2,240,200 negotiated, fixed-price contract for 920,000 yards from Pacific Mills Division of Burlington Industries, Incorporated, New York, N. Y.

ANG Units Convert To C-124 Aircraft

During the fourth quarter of FY67 three Air National Guard units will become the first to convert to C-124 aircraft.

Involved in the conversion are the 172nd Military Airlift Group, Jackson, Miss., and the 145th MAG, Charlotte, N.C., presently flying C-121 aircraft; and the 116th MAG, Marietta, Ga., now flying C-97s.

The ANG currently has 25 military airlift groups, all equipped with either the C-121 or C-97.

An ANG spokesman said, "Introduction of the giant C-124 will double the airlift capability of the units involved."

Navy Launches Puget Sound, 20,500-Ton Destroyer Tender

The 20,500-ton destroyer tender Puget Sound was launched Sept. 16 at Bremerton, Wash.

Crewed by 135 officers and 1,668 enlisted men, the vessel is 644 feet long with an 85-foot beam and is armed with a single 5-inch 38-caliber gun and six 50-caliber machine guns.

The new DD tender was authorized during the FY65 shipbuilding program.

PROMOTED—Commanding General of II Field Force Vietnam, Lt. Gen. Jonathan O. Seaman, was promoted to that rank Sept. 1. Three-star grade for field force commanders in Vietnam was recently approved by President Johnson. Gen. Seaman has commanded II Field Force since March, 1966.

SEEK-2 Survival Kits Go To Navy Aircrews in RVN

Newly-developed Navy SEEK-2 escape and survival kits are being delivered to aircrewmen in Southeast Asia, according to the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington, D.C.

Improved medical items and other components have been added as an update to meet combat requirements, the Navy said.

New equipment includes fishing gear, signalling devices, sewing supplies, fire starters, food rations, a compass, sunglasses, a wire saw, combination hack saw and knife blade, an arrowhead, a mosquito headnet and mittens.

The Navy said that each item is packed in its own individual watertight container.

AEC Nuclear Science Center Opens in Ireland

The United States' Atomic Energy Commission's "Atoms-in-Action" Nuclear Science Demonstration Center will open in Dublin, Ireland, Sept. 28.

President Eamon De Valera of Ireland, Chairman Glenn T. Seaborg of the AEC and American Ambassador Raymond R. Guest will participate in the opening day ceremonies. Dr. Seaborg will speak on "Peaceful Uses of the Atom."

Since 1959, more than six million persons have visited similar AEC Demonstration Centers in 22 major cities in Europe, the Middle and Far East, and Latin America.

"Atoms-in-Action," which will operate through Oct. 25, is being presented at the invitation of the Government of Ireland and in cooperation with the Royal Dublin Society.

Second Volume Published Of Army in Korea History

The second volume in a five part historical series about the U.S. Army in Korea has been published by Army's Office of the Chief of Military History.

"Truce Tent and Fighting Front," a 571-page book, tells of the armistice talks, the struggle along the stabilized front, and the problem encountered with enemy prisoners of war. Illustrations include maps, charts and photographs.

The author is Dr. Walter F. Hermes, a staff member who was graduated from Boston University and earned his doctorate at Georgetown University. He joined the staff in 1949.

Dr. Hermes, a World War II veteran, helped prepare "Strategic Planning for Coalition Warfare, 1943-44," and edited "Military Advisors in Korea: KMAG in Peace and War."

His latest work is on sale for $6 by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

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